

fidelity to his country and to his home State. I, along with others here, am honored to have served with him in this body. For me it was 3½ years. To be in his presence, to listen to him, to learn from him is a great gift. We mourn his passing. I do not think any of us will believe there will ever be a Senator quite like him in the 50 years he served in this body, in addition to serving the people of West Virginia in the House of Representatives, as well as in the legislature in West Virginia.

We say farewell and God bless and Godspeed to ROBERT BYRD and his memory. We are praying for and thinking this day and I know many future days about his legacy and his family.

Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOE FRANK NEIKIRK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to Joe Frank Neikirk and the business success he has helped build. Mr. Neikirk is the president and general manager of Paul's Discount in Somerset, KY. Paul's Discount has become a local institution in the region, and this month celebrated its 50th anniversary of operations.

The land that Paul's Discount now sits upon was purchased by Joe's ancestor, Franklin Neikirk, and his spouse for 500 cords of wood in 1856. Joe's parents, Paul E. and Frances R. Neikirk, opened the first discount store in south-central Kentucky on that land 104 years later in the early spring of 1960.

Founder Paul Neikirk passed away in 1974. Today Joe runs the store with his wife Jamie. The original store occupied only about 1,800 square feet and had three employees. Today, Paul's Discount boasts more than 20,000 square feet of selling space, plus three warehouses.

They offer sporting goods, hardware, automotive goods, clothing and crafts.

Joe's glad he's still in the same original location, saying, "You can't duplicate the atmosphere of this building." Judging by the crowd that turned out for the 50th anniversary, he must certainly be right.

The Commonwealth Journal recently published an excellent article about Paul's Discount, the Neikirk family's legacy and the 50th anniversary celebration that I would like to share with my colleagues. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Somerset Commonwealth Journal, June 13, 2010]

50 YEARS OF SERVICE—"UNIQUE" PAUL'S DISCOUNT—A PULASKI GEM

(By Tricia Neal, CJ Staff Writer)

Paul's Discount has always had a steady stream of customers, but yesterday, the customers came in droves—packing the parking lot and spilling out onto Ky. 2227 to help president and general manager Joe Frank Neikirk and his employees celebrate 50 years in business. Paul's Discount, opened in 1960 by Joe's parents, Paul and Frances Neikirk, is described by Joe as a "unique" store—offering sporting goods, hardware, automotive goods, clothing, and crafts.

What started as an Army surplus store with three employees has evolved into a sprawling, multi-department retail store with 30 employees, all of whom Joe says help make Paul's what it is. "God has blessed us with good employees at every level, from department managers to cashiers," he said.

Some of Paul's Discount's employees have worked in the store for nearly 30 years. Joe himself worked in his parents' store while he was in high school and college—and even earlier, he recalled, passing out baby chickens to customers at Easter.

"Customer service is the big thing about Paul's," Joe said. "You actually get somebody to ask you if you need help." That kind of friendly service is what brings customers from Pulaski and surrounding counties—and even, Joe says, from northern Kentucky, southern Ohio, and from other points east and west.

Paul Neikirk opened Paul's Surplus on his ancestors' land north of Somerset in 1960. In the beginning, the shop—the first discount store in south central Kentucky—occupied only about 1,800 square feet of space. Paul passed away in late 1974. At that time, his brother, Lyle Neikirk, took over management of the business. Lyle retired about 14 years later, leaving the shop in the hands of Paul's sons, Joe and Randy Neikirk.

Joe continues to manage the store, which now offers more than 20,000 square feet of selling space plus three warehouses, but he says his job has been made easy by those who surround him. "Today, my wife, Jamie, and I run the store. She does human resources, the employees do most everything else, and I handle whatever is left," he said.

"Our employees are almost self-sufficient." While the merchandise available at Paul's is constantly changing, Joe hopes the store's quality customer service and its atmosphere will keep customers loyal.

"We could never open another Paul's," Joe said. "You can't duplicate the atmosphere of

this building." Joe adds that his employees help create the atmosphere there.

While many things have remained the same at Paul's throughout the years, the current management is making sure the business keeps current. Paul Neikirk never would have imagined that his little shop would eventually be accessible to millions on the Internet. Now, the business can be found at [www.paulsdiscount.com](http://www.paulsdiscount.com) and on Facebook. "That's part of it nowadays," Joe said. But he still believes customers appreciate a good, old fashioned brick and mortar shopping experience.

"People still like to come to a store and look at what they're buying," he said. Paul's Discount is located on Ky. 2227, just north of SomerSplash water park. Ky. 2227 is part of the former North U.S. 27, and was once the most highly traveled road in the county. The store is now a little more out-of-the-way than it once was, but Joe says the change in traffic patterns hasn't hurt his business.

"Many local people were lost for a while," Joe recalled. "We were really dead for a couple of weeks. But people find their way. . . . It was an incredible risk (to stay in the same location). I thought it would affect us a lot more than it has." Store hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays.

#### NOMINATION OF ELENA KAGAN

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, this morning, the Supreme Court concluded its work for the term and, accordingly, it was Justice John Paul Stevens' last day on the Court. This afternoon, the Senate Judiciary Committee began the hearing on the nomination of Elena Kagan to succeed Justice Stevens on the Supreme Court of the United States.

Solicitor General Kagan appropriately included a tribute to Justice Stevens in her opening remarks. The Nation is indebted to Justice Stevens for his decades of service to this country, from his days as a Navy intelligence officer during World War II for which he was awarded a Bronze Star, to his contributions as a circuit judge, to his 35 years on our highest Court and his leadership there.

When I visited with Justice Stevens earlier this year he shared with me the note President Ford had written a year before his death in which the President said: "I am prepared to allow history's judgment of my term in office to rest (if necessary, exclusively) on my nomination 30 years ago of John Paul Stevens to the U.S. Supreme Court." President Ford was justifiably proud of his nomination. Despite those on the far right who have ranted against Justice Stevens' refusal to be bound by narrow, conservative ideology and who have criticized his good judgment—just as they have Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Justice David Souter—his was principled jurisprudence founded on adherence to the rule of law and